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SUM 1930SUMMER OUTFITS FOR LITTLE CHILDREN

By Clarice Scott.

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Hot weather seems to make little difference in the play of active young-sters. All day long they are on the go, romping with playmates or perhaps working hard in a sand pile. Such activity requires a great deal of energy, and unless appropriately dressed, the children may get too warm. You see, children are not like us grown-ups who are glad for a chance to settle ourselves quietly in the cool breeze of a fan. Yet, we can hardly expect them to be. They are still growing, and healthful development requires plenty of wholesome exercise.

I am sure you will agree with me that hot weather outfits for the children should be reduced to as few pieces as possible. That applies to all occasions -- not only play time. Fortunately, most every child owns a few sunsuits now-a-days, and they are, indeed, ideal garments for play. However, propriety still dictates a dress or suit as the most appropriate garment for trips away from home. This change from a cool one-piece sunsuit to the usual dress or suit with its many pieces is not pleasant, and may often account for unexpected ill behavior. Why not let children have the comforts of a sunsuit combined with their away-from-home outfits? They can be united into most comfortable, attractive and economical suits. Instead of having two entirely different types of outfits, make sunsuits with matching dresses for little girls, and overblouses for small boys. In that way, one garment may serve first as a cool undergarment with the dress, then as a sunsuit without it.

I wish you might see the new outfits recently designed at the Bureau of Home Economics. You'd like them I'm sure, for they are the most practical things you can imagine. We call them Sunsuit Ensembles. Let me describe one planned for the little girl. At first glance, she seems to be wearing a perfectly simple gingham dress -- one built for play, yet very smart in design. Box pleats, one at each side of the back and front, provide fullness, and the raglan sleeves are cut short and roomy for comfort. The low neckline is collarless. That's a detail worth noting, for collars may be very warm on a hot day. Besides, they muss badly and are a nuisance to iron. You see, we think of mothers too when designing children's clothes. Another special feature of the dress is its convenient center front closing. Three decorative tabs add to the design and mark the places for buttons. You'd be surprised to see how quickly even a very little girl can manage this dress all by herself. And that is the idea of the whole thing. When she feels a bit too warm, off comes the dress. As if by magic, she is appropriately dressed for either cool play or a sun bath. What first appears to be ordinary matching panties is in reality a romper with a marquisette top. It is cut so as to allow all kinds of activity, yet style and good appearance are not neglected. Strap extensions on the shoulders will provide more length when needed.

A small boy needs to be kept cool as well as a little girl, so we have designed an equally practical and attractive suit for him. It is especially good on a two or three-year old lad who still wears overblouses becomingly. He buttons his self-help trousers onto a surplice net waist that requires no buttons except those that also support the trousers. Over this, he merely puts on a matching overblouse and is appropriately dressed for the street. All of the little things that make clothes a nuisance to a boy are done away with in this design.

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It is collarless, sleeveless, and there are no trick fastenings. It merely buttons right down the center front. The buttons are just the right size for him to manage easily, and the three buttonholes are easy for him to find because of decorative tabs like those on the girl's tailored dress. The jacket-like blouse can be shed in a jiffy whenever he wishes to dig in the sandpile, or when it's time for a sun bath. Quite as quickly he can put it on when there is danger of cooling off too quickly after active play, or there is a call to come to dinner.

A soft, color-fast chambray was used for both of these outfits. To be sure, there are many other cottons just as good, but chambray is inexpensive and can be found in delightful colors. Blue makes a cool looking outfit and it is very attractive, indeed, when the neck and front edge are finished as well as strengthened with a short, dark blue blanket stitch, overhanded with yellow.

These two sunsuit ensembles and others are illustrated in a new four-page leaflet just out. If you would like a copy, all you need do is write to the Bureau of Home Economics in Washington and ask for Leaflet 63 -- Ensembles for Sunny Days. We shall be glad to mail it to you. Also if you wish to know where patterns can be obtained we'll tell you.